

The Bari Agreement

More than two years, a group of organizations invited by the Italian Government and the Puglia Region Government began to work as a team, to build a concept of youth participation at the global level with local impact for a sustainable future.

The objective was to engage young agents of change, and local leaders to expand their impact and the role they play to a global scale.

The group of organizations, led by the promoting Italian Institutions, formed “the Kick-off Committee”, participated in the creation of *NMC - ni, mondlokaj civitanoj* (we, global local citizens) and indicated as value framework to the NMC initiative the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *Millennium Development Goals* and the *Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization*. The Kick-off Committee membership includes The Youth Minister of the Italian Government, the Puglia Region, the National Youth Agency of Italy, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Labour Organizations (ILO), UN-Habitat, the Youth Hellenic National Agency, Microsoft, MTV, Amartya, Arci, FLARE, FAIRTRADE Federation, Indaba-network, Making Cents International, Modavi, Vedogiovane, World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The Kick-off Committee later benefitted from the collaboration with UNESCO.

During several meetings and exchanges, the Kick-off Committee selected key issues of extreme urgency that need immediate attention to improve the state of the world. The issues selected were: Citizenship with emphasis on youth participation; education; environment; employment and economy, security and human development.

In order to ensure the highest level of youth leadership participation from every global perspective, and to raise awareness on the key role that young people should have in shaping the political, economic and social future, the Kick-off Committee members launched the NMC initiative through the NMC Web portal and invited 500 youth delegates from 122 countries to Bari to determine the path forward.

These delegates, plus many other participants and experts, came together in Bari to discuss these issues with fellow youth leaders from different parts of the world that are facing similar challenges and to share innovative ideas. After three days of rich exchanges, hard work and networking, the delegates have developed and committed to a joint *Action Plan* to increase their impact locally and globally.

Through this initiative the NMC has now been established as a worldwide youth movement. Through the work of the delegates, NMC will now grow as the delegates find and create spaces of youth participation that will significantly impact on the development agenda.

Taking into account the vision and the *Action Plan* developed in Bari by the youth delegates, we, the Kick off Committee, agree to:

1. disseminate the resulting *Action Plan* within our organizations,
2. support the NMC youth movement that has been formed. We also agree to continue to advocate on behalf of young people as key partners for a sustainable future,
3. partner and synchronize - under a coordinate governance - youth initiatives similar in nature to those addressed by the NMC Action Plan, starting from those promoted by ourselves,
4. welcome the creation of an NMC Secretariat led by the Italian Institutions that will keep the Kick-off Committee and the delegates connected, informed, engaged,
5. encourage the creation of a NMC Steering Committee by including delegates in its governance structure and decisional processes,
6. seek out new members, more innovative thinking and opportunities for meaningful participation to consolidate NMC and add new perspectives to strengthen the initiative.

At Bari it has been made evident, that the youth of the world are the emerging leadership that is needed to reset the course that has brought us to the levels of pollution, poverty, inequality unemployment and exclusion that need halted immediately. We will do all in our part to support their efforts and plans.

Bari, Italy, January 21st, 2010